

Salmon in the Classroom FAQs

How do I get salmon in my classroom?

First, read the webpage on commitment to be sure you understand all of the program requirements. [Then contact your Salmon in the Classroom coordinator.](#)

Are there expenses associated with the program?

The fish, food and training are provided by the DNR, but schools are required to purchase the necessary [equipment](#) which costs \$800 to \$1,000. Many schools seek grants or build local partnerships with conservation organizations to help assist with that financing.

Do I need a permit to participate?

Yes, teachers, by law, are required to have a permit to keep fish in their classroom. Once you have been approved to participate, you can apply for a [permit](#) online.

When and where do I pick up salmon eggs?

Eggs are not mailed or delivered to schools. Educators have two options for picking up their eggs: 1) DNR weirs in early October or 2) DNR fish hatcheries in November.

How do I learn how to care for the salmon?

First-time participants must attend a mandatory [workshop](#) where they will learn how to care for their fish. Materials to assist teachers in caring for their salmon are also available in program manuals provided to teachers and on the Salmon in the Classroom web site.

Does the DNR provide technical support for this program if my chiller, filter or other pieces of aquarium equipment fail to operate properly? No, currently the DNR does not provide this kind of technical support. We recommend that you seek assistance from school maintenance staff not only for broken equipment but also to assist feeding fish during spring break or other occasions when you may be away from school for an extended period of time.

How many Michigan schools participate?

In 2007-2008, 76 Michigan schools or education organizations participated. In 2008-2009 a limit of 100 schools will be allowed to participate.

Does the DNR have educational materials to help educators teach about salmon?

Yes, when teachers participate in a workshop they receive a manual full of activities that will enable them to teach their students about Michigan's fisheries resource.

What do I do if my eggs die before hatching? Your tank is a living example of a natural process and some of your eggs will die. This is a good teaching opportunity for the students. It is important to remove any dead eggs in your tank as soon as possible. It also is possible that you may experience a large die-off, in rare circumstances that also happens in nature. Replacement eggs may be an option. Individual situations will be

evaluated on a case-by-case basis. [If this occurs, contact your Salmon in the Classroom coordinator.](#)

What do I do if my fish begin to die? Die-offs are a natural part of the salmon life cycle. If this occurs, you will not be able to receive replacement fish. However, there are several steps you can take to reduce the potential of a die-off. One of the most common causes of a fish die-off in tanks is high ammonia levels. This is caused by excess food or fish waste in the tank. Clean your tank and stop feeding the fish until your ammonia levels return to normal.